Thank you to all the parents who attended the meeting yesterday. For those who were unable to attend I will be sending home an information bulletin on Friday letting everyone know about the various changes to school processes and procedures that have needed to be made this year.

**STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

It is a legal requirement that all children attend school. However, if students are going away for any length of time during the school terms there is a process available for an exemption from school can be granted. This means that the student's leave has formal Departmental approval and is not recorded as an absence. Families wishing to apply for an Exemption From School for their children should contact Mrs Smith in the front office.

**CANTEEN**

Volunteers are still being sought for the school canteen. If you have a spare half an hour, a few hours or a whole day to help in the canteen your contribution and service would be very much appreciated. Please see myself or Mrs Smith if you have any time at all that you could give.

Thank you so much to the parents who have already volunteered to keep the canteen running. They are doing an awesome job and our canteen menu now features a number of new, yummy but healthy items. Soon the canteen will be able to have real fruit slushies available for the children to enjoy.

The Canteen Committee are in the process of preparing a new Canteen List which will feature the new menu and new prices. This list will be finalised in the near future once the quality and popularity of new items have been tested.
**Merit Award Winners**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>HB1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reba, Hayley, Malakye</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>HB2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ezakhai, Kyesha, Cohen</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>HB3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corey, Jack, Domonic</td>
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</table>

**Class**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HB4</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bryce, Jasmine, Maraea, Mataja</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>HB5</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zak,</td>
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<th>HB6</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patrick, Nicholas</td>
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**Special Award Winners**

**Green Award:** Dylan, Lexi, Grace, Sebastiano, Shaniqua, Dakota

**Reading Award Winners**

Adrian, Nicholas, Kai, Jorden

**Mr Brown’s Class Assembly Item**

Mr Brown’s class shared some fantastic artwork with us during our week 4 assembly. Those students have been learning about transport and presented art work defining different modes of transport used in past and present times.
Have You Received The Schoolkids Bonus?

Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.

K/1 NEWS

Congratulations to our Year One students Tequiah, Tori, Malakye, Sara, Nicolas, Tristan and Kathleen who are being wonderful role models for our kindergarten students by displaying excellent behaviour and work habits in the classroom. Our Kinder students have made a book with their “I went” stories. We hope you enjoy reading them!

I went next door. Bella
I went to Nanny’s. Brayden
I went to a restaurant. David
I went to the zoo. Stephenie
I went to McDonalds. Maddison
I went to Poppy’s. Hayley
I went to the beach. Trixie
I went to Michael’s. Jai
I went under a rainbow. Deakon
I went to Jamberoo. Aleigha
I went to the beach. Tama.
**Switch Off**

Join thousands of other businesses and organisations around the globe by switching off your lights for Earth Hour on Saturday March 23, 2013 at 8:30pm. Show the world your organisation cares about our environment and the future of our planet. It’s a great way to show your company in a different light!

For more information about Earth Hour visit
http://www.earthhour.org/

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**Rydges North Sydney**

Let the Kids loose at Taronga Zoo these holidays. Package includes accommodation in a Family Suite, Taronga Zoo family pass, full buffet breakfast & parking. Great Entertainment & Value! Price Includes 2 Adult & 2 Children entry only, extra tickets can be purchased.

**Only $319.00**

Stay an extra night from only $140.00 including breakfast.

Subject to availability and terms and conditions apply.

Offer Valid for stays 29th March – 28th April 2013

To book simply log-on to: [www.rydges.com/northsydney](http://www.rydges.com/northsydney) or call reservations on 02 9922 1311